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White City
Aspira
of New York, Inc
Annual Report 1981-82
our 20th yr

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No ED named
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Office of the Mayor CITY OF NEW YORK Proclamation

WHEREAS, the twenty-second anniversary of the incorporation of the City of New York is a significant milestone in the history of the City and the State of New York;

AND WHEREAS, the City of New York is a city of many cultures, languages, and traditions, and it is the responsibility of the City to celebrate and honor the contributions of all its citizens;

AND WHEREAS, the City of New York is a city of many talents, and it is the responsibility of the City to recognize and support the achievements of all its citizens;

AND WHEREAS, the City of New York is a city of many dreams, and it is the responsibility of the City to support and encourage the aspirations of all its citizens;

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO CELEBRATE AND HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS, AND TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS.

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Robert E. Meza
Mayor of the City of New York



The twentieth anniversary of an organization is a milestone which should be joyously celebrated. But it is also a benchmark against which to assess achievements and accomplishments, reconsider and reaffirm institutional mission, and identify, develop and implement future initiatives. I am proud to report that Aspira of New York, Inc. has commemorated 20 years of service in exactly that manner.

For many of us, the anniversary party at New York, New York will certainly always be a fulfilled memory. From the exciting Charanga rhythms to the insightful and thought provoking contemporary poetry readings, a twentieth anniversary could hardly have been better celebrated.

As I reflect on our organization's 20-year history, it is beyond doubt that Aspira has played a major role in the life of many Puerto Rican and other Hispanic youth. Our educational counseling component has been a key factor in enabling a significant number of these youth to attend post-secondary institutions. In addition, the Leadership Development Program has provided guidance and support to thousands of students at a critical time in their lives - the formative but volatile, pressure-filled high school years. Moreover, in recent years, our training and employment component has served hundreds of persons.

We can look proudly at the results. "Aspirants" are now studying in a broad cross-section of fields and pursuing careers in all facets of the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors. Many are involved in volunteer community service through participation in governmental and private agency policy groups and boards of directors of community organizations, including our own.

Yet, while significant advances have been made, many of the conditions which gave rise to the need

for this organization over 20 years ago persist today. The drop-out rate of our youth remains unacceptably high. A research project we commissioned will report that Puerto Rican and other Hispanics are significantly underrepresented in higher education institutions. In light of the current re-industrialization of America and research indicating an emerging mismatch between the number of new jobs to be created and the ability of resident populations to perform these jobs, the need for meaningful educational and career counseling is more critical today than ever before.

Thus, our mission — to foster the social advancement of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic community through education and the development of a socially enlightened and committed leadership — is as imperative and viable today as it was two decades ago.

In an effort to ensure that the organization is fully prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead both in terms of need for our services and the recent developments in philanthropy, the Board of Directors has initiated a process of organizational self-assessment. Upon completion, Aspira of New York, Inc. will have examined critically all aspects of our service delivery systems, internal administrative and personnel procedures and practices, and current development efforts. It is expected that the resultant recommendations will enable us to formulate the institutional goals and objectives upon which we will build the next 20 years of growth.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Aspira of New York, Inc. I extend to all of our supporters our heartfelt appreciation and thanks for your support throughout these 20 years.

Robert E. Meza, Esq.

ASPIRA-A Brief Sketch



ASPIRA of New York, Inc., as an agency, was conceived as the result of the vision and charismatic leadership of Dr. Antonio Pantoja. The idea of ASPIRA was first expressed in 1955. The reality did not emerge until 1958, as an arm of the then Puerto Rican, Hispanic Leadership Forum. A series of grants from private foundations led to the opening of an ASPIRA office in 1961.

Since then, ASPIRA of New York has provided supportive educational services and leadership development training to more than 30,000 Hispanic and other minority youth. Its acceptance as an established educational and leadership development agency, both locally and nationally, has testified to its effectiveness. In 1965, ASPIRA was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit agency, and began to receive public and philanthropic support for its programs to youth.

During the 1970's, ASPIRA of New York established itself as a major advocate for the Hispanic community on both educational and non-education related issues. Most significant during this period was the 1974 "Consent Decree," the result of a suit that ASPIRA initiated against the New York City Board of Education, and which affirmed the right of bilingual education for Spanish speaking and other foreign language students until such time as these students reach a level of proficiency in the English language.

Now in its third decade of service, ASPIRA of New York remains committed to meeting the educational needs of Hispanic youth through continued program development and advocacy. Its efforts were formally recognized on Nov. 18, 1981, when Mayor Edward I. Koch issued a proclamation citing this date as "ASPIRA Day" in New York City.



ASPIRA INC. OF NEW YORK

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1982 CURRENT FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Fixed Asset Fund	Total All Funds
Public Support, Grants and Revenue:				
Corporations and foundations	\$ 57,655	\$ 1,460	-	\$ 59,115
Government grants	-	970,278	-	970,278
Transfers from Aspira of America, Inc.	-	79,849	-	79,849
Miscellaneous	9,410	1,333	\$ 4,240	14,983
Transfers of administrative overhead	40,650	(40,650)	-	-
Total public support, grants and revenue	107,724	1,012,261	4,240	1,124,225
Expenses:				
Program Services:				
Student aid, counseling and placement	-	529,621	-	529,621
Community services	-	474,139	-	474,139
Total program services	-	1,003,760	-	1,003,760
Supporting Services:				
Management and general	99,827	-	7,739	107,566
Fund raising	26,538	-	-	26,538
Total supporting services	125,365	-	7,739	133,104
Total expenses	125,365	1,003,760	7,739	1,137,064
Excess (Def.) or pub. support, grants and revenue over expenses	(17,641)	8,501	(3,499)	12,839
Other changes in fund balances:				
Transfers from (to) other funds	78,889	(2,293)	(78,596)	-
Net decrease in liabilities due to sale of building (Note 1)	195,690	-	-	195,690
Adjustments to carrying values of assets	(11,650)	(999)	-	(12,649)
Fund balance (Deficit), beginning of period	(313,867)	1,587	92,731	(221,549)
Fund balance (Deficit), end of period	\$ (75,179)	\$ 4,786	\$ 12,642	\$ (50,741)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The "flagship" ASPIRA program continues to be Leadership Development. The overall goal of this program is to develop the leadership potential of Puerto Rican and other Hispanic youth with a view towards fostering a commitment to community service. Through ASPIRA high school clubs and borough centers, the program provides leadership training, academic, personal and career counseling, as well as cultural activities.

We completed the school year with a membership of 447 students at 14 ASPIRA clubs located

at various New York City high schools and at the ASPIRA Educational Opportunities Centers in the Bronx and Brooklyn.

Youths involved in the Leadership Development Program, as well as hundreds of other underprivileged youths in need of supportive services, were able to avail themselves of ASPIRA's services in the areas of financial aid, educational and career counseling, academic orientation and drop-out prevention.



This year saw the introduction of a drama workshop in which students received training in acting and playwriting. The workshop curriculum also included self-awareness exercises and utilized role playing techniques which we feel to be a necessary element of leadership training.

One of the most successful in the past year's series of educational/civic awareness forums was

the second annual "Leadership Encounter Week." The activity brought together Aspirantes from throughout the city to meet noted leaders of the Hispanic community and elected officials from city and state governments. Students were able to discuss the meaning of leadership, problems facing youth in our community, and responsibilities of community leaders in resolving these problems.

Educational and Career Counseling

ASPIRA's bilingual counseling staff, operating from our Bronx and Brooklyn Educational Opportunities Centers and selected target schools, last year provided educational and career counseling to Leadership Development Program participants, walk-ins, referrals from the target schools and community-based organizations, as well as other ASPIRA programs.

Our counselors helped youths to decide what courses to take, or what careers might be best suited to their aptitudes. They also helped youths to address other academic and vocational concerns. On occasion, our counselors assisted youths with personal, family and other problems, and made referrals to other agencies.

Health Careers

Through a grant from the J.M. Foundation and other corporate/foundation supporters, ASPIRA last year expanded its 10-year-old Health Careers Program. This is our program whereby we offer guidance and assistance to students who wish to pursue careers in the medical, dental and allied health fields. It was created as a result of the need

to fill the serious void of medical services, professionals and leaders in the Hispanic community.

During 1981-82, 266 students participated in Health Career program activities, leading to placements in undergraduate and graduate-level medical and health training programs.





OTHER ASPIRA SERVICES

Special Services Program

Far too often, an Hispanic student will graduate from high school, enter college and encounter problems in handling the college curriculum. The unfortunate outcome is that the student might drop out of college, when in reality all that may be required is a strengthening of the basic academic skills, and some form of academic, financial or personal counseling.

To meet part of this need, ASPIRA last year again operated its Special Services Program at

various units of the City University. Simply, the objective here is to promote college retention. The program provides bilingual basic skills instruction, tutorial services, and personal, career, academic and financial aid counseling to participants.

Now completing its 15th year, our Special Services Program last year provided remedial, counseling and other supportive services to 339 students.

Career/Vocational Exploration

ASPIRA continued to operate career/vocational exploration programs for teenage youth who are at risk of dropping out of high school. In 1981-82, ASPIRA of New York played a key role in the development of the New York State Adolescent Vocational Exploration Program (A.V.E.). The overall goal of this program is to help youth between the ages of 14 and 17 clarify their career and educational goals and thereby enhance their future employment ability.

Last year, 100 students who participated in the summer component of the program received career skills development training, and they received practical experience at work sites made available

by cooperating businesses.

The Youth Employment and Training Program (Y.E.T.P.) is another way in which ASPIRA reaches out to students who have dropped out of high school. Our program offers vocational training, but we also encourage participants to pursue college and/or additional technical training. In many cases, the youngsters can and often do take advantage of other ASPIRA program services to obtain a high school diploma, college admissions assistance and placement.

Our Youth Employment and Training Program last year served 184 participants between the ages of 16 and 21.

Scholarship and Financial Aid Services

Identifying sources of financial aid for college-bound students remains a fundamental service of ASPIRA. For the third consecutive year, ASPIRA provided professional management and administration to the Mayor's Scholarship Program. The objective of this program is to inform community organizations/agencies of scholarship opportunities, to train community based organizations/agencies' personnel in the area of undergraduate financial aid, and to provide personal, academic, career and financial aid counseling to program participants. In addition, the program offers scho-

larships with awards ranging from \$100 to \$650 for an academic year.

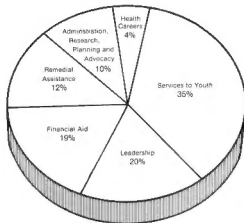
Our outreach efforts extended to some 70 selected high schools and 210 community-based organizations. In addition, we mounted a major print and radio media campaign to reach 10,000 prospective scholarship applicants.

During our 1981-82 year, 466 deserving, underprivileged students — of 2,337 applicants — received \$209,446 in support of their college education through the Mayor's Scholarship Program.





EXPENSES



A copy of the last financial report filed with the Department of State may be obtained by writing to: New York State Department of State, Office of Charities Registration, Albany, N.Y. 12231, or ASPIRA of New York, Inc., 332 East 149th St., Bronx, N.Y. 10451.

QUOTATIONS

Over the past 20 years, ASPIRA of New York has figured prominently in a number of writings.

"All of us at Philip Morris Incorporated applaud the preeminent role that ASPIRA of New York has played in fostering self-help, education and leadership ability among youth of the Hispanic community over the past 20 years. And all of us are proud to acknowledge that the "ASPIRA Process" is indeed a proven, tested—and absolutely necessary—mechanism to guarantee equality of opportunity, especially in the face of diminished public resources."

—Alan Weinblatt
Philip Morris Inc.
October 28, 1982

"...Of all the grass-roots organizations of the Puerto Rican community, ASPIRA has probably been the most effective. It has become nationally known and its services to the Puerto Rican youth has been remarkable. Many of the young people now coming out of college and professional schools received their early encouragement and guidance from ASPIRA. They have established ASPIRA clubs in many of the high schools throughout the city... In terms of solid and tangible achievement, probably no other Puerto Rican organization can show as much evidence of accomplishment as ASPIRA."

—Rev. Joseph Fitzpatrick
Professor, Fordham University
Author: "The Puerto Rican Americans"
Prentiss Hall, 1972

"The other side of the coin is an impressive amount of activity by young, educated Puerto Ricans to raise the level of concern for education. For example, Puerto Rican social workers, professionals, and teachers have set up an organization, ASPIRA, devoted to working with students and their parents so that they will take all possible advantage of educational opportunities. It runs workshops in which plans to get through high school or into or through college are worked out, it gives lectures on professional opportunities, looks for money for scholarships, teaches parents and community organizations. The young Puerto Rican leaders also run an interesting annual youth conference that gives a revealing insight into the concerns and struggles of the young people. It has a rather hopeful outlook, which emphasizes the group's potential for achievement more than the prejudice and discrimination it meets. One can only hope that this buoyant outlook will be better sustained by life in the city."

—Nathan Glazer and Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Authors: "Beyond the Melting Pot", 1963



ON BACK COVER

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FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

ASPIRA of New York in the past year has received financial contributions from the following firms, foundations and individuals:

American Stock Exchange
Avon Products Foundation
The Louis Calder Foundation
Capital Cities Foundation
Coach Products, Inc.
Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
Chesebrough-Ponds, Inc.
Clark Foundation
Consolidated Edison
Freeport McMoran, Inc.
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